



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Selectmen's Minutes 01/31/2005

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 31, 2005

7:15 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mr. Lyons, and Mrs. Dias

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Krepelka.

Absent: Mr. Greeley

1. Presentation to Bring Town to Fiscal Stability

Charles Lyons, Selectman

Mr. Lyons presented a fiscal plan towards creating fiscal stability for Arlington.

Components of the plan include maintaining fiscal discipline for 5 years, passing an override by this fall, and asking the legislature to begin a program of restoring the 3.2 million dollar reduction cuts ensuring the Town would be financially solid. At the end of the five years there will be sufficient reserves to keep a double A bond rating and operating costs would be at 4.5 percent. Mr. Lyons wants to spend the next couple of months discussing at local and state levels this fiscal plan. Mr. Lyons hopes the Community (managers, employees, unions, state legislatures, and residents) will come together in cooperation to make sacrifices in order to create fiscal stability for the Town of Arlington.

2. Discussion: Update Yearly Legislature Meeting

Senator Havern reassured the Board that all four of Arlington's legislatures are committed to restoring state cuts to the community. It will be tough in this fiscal time and the question is are enough people affected positively to get change?

Senator Havern also reported that there are 23 Senators who have signed a Bill to eliminate additional assistance.

Representative Kaufman reconfirmed his commitment to restoring monies to communities but cautioned the legislatures do not know yet what the budget is at the state level.

Representative Paulsen reported that the revenue picture is not resolved for next year yet. This is the first step in restoring cuts to communities. In response to Mr. Lyons request for help regarding the audit on Ottoson Middle School, Ms.

Paulsen will contact the Executive Director of the New School Building Assistance Bureau to try to push the audit closer.

This will help in Arlington's state aid from the State.

Representative Marzilli stated he couldn't make long-term fiscal promises, but only one year at a time. He reported the state has a revenue shortfall of \$400 million dollars and there are no means to create extra revenue.

The Selectmen thanked the representatives for meeting with the Town. The Selectmen agree that due to the state aid cuts there are good reasons to support an override. This is a starting point to educate and create conditions for a successful override.

FOR APPROVAL

3. **Minutes of Meeting:** January 10, 2005
Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)
4. **NStar Petition: 185 Florence Ave., W.O. #1399142**
To provide electric service to the new Dallin School located at 185 Florence St.
(all abutters notified)
Mrs. Dias moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

5. **Appointment: New Election Workers**
Lu Ann C. Sorenson, 120 Milton St., Pct. 4, D
Cynthia Buckner, 990 Mass. Ave. #85, Pct. 14, U
Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

6. **Request: One-Day Beer & Wine License, Annual Financial Assistance Fund Dinner, 3/19/05**
Melissa Spiers, Leslie Ellis School
Mrs. Dias moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)
7. **Request: One-Day Liquor License, Donor Appreciation Event, 4/7/05**
Lee-Ann Pepicelli, Arlington Catholic High School
Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)
8. **Request: Permission to Walk Through Arlington, ALS Fundraiser, 4/16/05**
Jamie Manganello, ALS Therapy Development Foundation
Mr. Lyons moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

These matters were presented for consideration of the Board.

Mr. John O'Neill, 10 Foster Street, asked questions regarding fiscal plans and commented he was not in favor of an override but would support it if necessary.

Mr. Gordon Jamieson, Town Meeting member Precinct #12, presented questions and objections to Mr. Lyon's fiscal plan. Mrs. Mahon asked him to submit his questions to the Selectmen's office or via e-mail. Mr. Jamieson expressed his support of an override.

Mrs. Annie LaCourt, Town Meeting member Precinct #15, questioned the Board on if it was possible to maintain same level of services and what's the order of priority. She asked that the budget be looked at in terms of real dollars being spent and also look at the budget as it relates to service levels. Mrs. LaCourt asked the Board to pledge that all candidates work together on passing an override in Arlington.

Ms. Colleen Kirby-Cho, 16 Pamela Drive, thanked the Selectmen for holding the Budget and Revenue Task Force meetings early in the budget planning cycle. Thanked the Board for the open discussion and requested the Board to take into account the teacher contracts in June 2005.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

10. **Request: Payment of Bills**

Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum

Mr. Lyons moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

11. Approval: Arlington Refunding Bonds - \$5,790,00

John J. Bilafer, Town Treasurer

Mr. Lyons moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Correspondence Received

John F. Maher Board of Survey Policies and Procedures Be Rec'd

Town Counsel

Mrs. Dias asked Mr. Maher to include in the Board of Survey Policies and Procedures that developers submit a schematic of requested road/street to the Selectmen's office so that it may be included in the Selectmen packets and also available for pass-outs.

After some discussion, the Board voted that all property owners whose property lies within 300 feet of the development be given two weeks written notice of said public hearing.

Mr. Lyons made a motion to receive the Policies and Procedures report with amendments and make it an agenda item for the next meeting to adopt. SO VOTED (4-0)

Larry Jones Resignation from Arlington Information Technology Advisory Be Rec'd

26 Pine St. Council

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of correspondence.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Hurd reported on CDBG funds – he stated all appropriations would fit within projects on deck for the year.

Mr. Lyons pointed out that CDBG funds has a presidential proposal of being cut by 50%, which equates to an \$800,000.

reduction for the Town of Arlington. Also those CDBG eligibility requirements may be changed. Mr. Lyons recommended to the Town Manager that he not hire new personnel based on CDBG funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Dias thanked every Town worker who plowed in the recent storms.

Mr. Hurd also thanked the Town employees for plowing in spite of their understaffed conditions.

Mr. Hurd announced there are two openings on the Transportation Advisory Committee one appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and the other appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Chamber recommended Charles "Chuck" Pappas of Swifty Printing. Mr. Hurd asked all interested parties to contact Mrs. Krepelka.

Mr. Lyons moved approval to appoint Chuck Pappas to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mrs. Mahon informed the Board that the February 7, 2005 meeting is cancelled, and that the next meeting is February 14, 2005.

Mrs. Mahon asked Mr. Sullivan to research and report back on the small number of employees who pay 80/20% for health care.

Mrs. Dias asked that the cost amount be included in the report if they were changed to 85/15 %.

Mrs. Mahon advised the Board that the IRS sets the travel reimbursement rate. Mrs. Mahon asked that Mr. Maher find out if the Town has to comply with the amounts set.

Mr. Lyons read Mr. Greeley's e-mail on Fidelity House's Adopt a Kid Program and suggested to the Board that each Selectmen contribute \$200.00 so that the Board together Adopts a Kid.

Mr. Hurd moved to adjourn at 8:58 PM.

SO VOTED (4-0)

A True Record: Attest

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator